

LOCAL SUPPORT
FOR LINCOLN

DRAWER 9

CAMPAIGN -1860

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Abraham Lincoln's Political Career through 1860

Local Support for Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

that on their entrance into active life they may from inclination and habit evince benevolence towards their fellow-creatures, and a love of truth, sobriety and industry, adopting at the same time such religious tenets as their matured reason may enable them to prefer.

(On verso of original visitor's pass, signed by director James Campbell, Oct. 2nd, 1891).

KENTUCKIAN RILEY ADVISES HIS ILLINOIS BROTHER ON LINCOLN'S CAMPAIGN IN 1860

Covington, Ky. July 10th, 1860.

Dear Brother,

. we are going to have an exciting Presidential Election canvass. The Democrats are considerably divided between Douglas & Breckenridge. Bill's friends are pleased to see the division, because this is their only hope of success. Dr. Temple has joined the Republicans & is the president of their Club here. I am equally opposed to the Republicans, and the Secessionists, they both advocating principles which if carried out will be destructive to the Union. The Republicans deny the equality of the rights of the people of the several States, who are equal owners of the Territory. If you and I owned together a tract of land, that we had purchased by our labor, and I should claim the right to go on the land with such property as I might choose to own, but should, say to you that you must not bring your property with you, would it not be unfair. This is the Republican doctrine. The Territory, belongs equally to the people of the several States, as above stated, and part of the owners are trying to exclude the rest. Suppose Southern men should say, that Northern men should not, bring cattle and own horses in the Common Territory, would it be fair dealing or right. But I need not argue the matter with you and William, because you cannot agree to any such principles. Born and raised upon Kentucky soil, nourished by slave labour, to change so radically every impulse of Kentucky feeling, and turn back and trample under foot the principles taught you by your Fathers and Kindred, would be so unnatural, that even the most

IMMENSE REPUBLICAN MEETING. The Republicans of this city and vicinity gathered by thousands at the Music Hall, last night, to ratify the National and State nominations. The hall was packed with human beings, and a second meeting was organized in the Lower Music Hall. Large delegations were present from the neighboring towns and cities, and the show of Wide Awakes was very fine. The procession which occurred at the close of the meeting, comprising the Wide Awake clubs of the city and those from the country, was one of the finest torchlight displays seen in Boston for some years. The enthusiasm of the Republicans was at fever heat, and they have reason to feel gratified, (particularly the committee of arrangements,) at the success of their first demonstration in the autumn.

Alpheus Hardy, Esq., presided over the meeting in the Upper Music Hall in a felicitous style, assisted by a large number of Vice Presidents and Secretaries. The following resolutions were read by George S. Hale, Esq., and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Republicans of Boston and vicinity pledge themselves anew to the principles and the men put forward by the Convention at Chicago, and are proud to unite with the names of Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin those of John A. Andrew and John Z. Goodrich, disciples of the same faith, adherents to the same sound doctrine.

Resolved, That the disintegration and disruption of the democratic party into two hostile and sectional fragments, and the timid abrogation of principle by that other disorganization known only by its "sounding brass and tinkling cymbal," demonstrate that the republican party alone are truly national and American; and while that party declare their devotion to the free and conservative principles proclaimed by the eloquence of Henry Clay and Daniel Webster, supported by the patriotic vigor of Andrew Jackson and the unswerving honesty of Silas Wright, they have no sympathy with those whose conservatism consists in the destruction of freedom, the violation of compacts and an eager alibi with the advocates of disunion; nor do they seek or countenance any unconstitutional interference with institutions for which in their proper sphere they acknowledge no responsibility.

Resolved, That we recognize no higher qualifications in public officers than integrity of character and honesty of purpose. When these are united with rare intellectual ability and great legal acumen, the interests of the Union and the Commonwealth are not likely to suffer; nor is it any objection to our rulers that they have big hearts, if the judgment be clear and the purpose firm.

Resolved, That we recognize in our fellow-citizen, John A. Andrew, a gentleman of the highest moral and intellectual character. He has passed his whole professional life—more than twenty years—in our city, and has established an enduring reputation for learning, ability and soundness of judgment. We will trust him in the executive chair, with entire confidence that he will adorn a position occupied by some of the most eminent citizens of our country; and will perform all its duties with the same honesty of purpose and the same conscientious fidelity, the same practical sagacity and marked ability that he has ever displayed in private life.

Resolved, That we present to our fellow-citizens all the candidates nominated by the Republican Convention at Worcester, as in every respect worthy of their confidence and support.

Letters were then read from Hon. H. L. Dawes, and Governor Banks, expressive of their regret that they could not be present at the meeting.

The Hon. Henry Wilson was introduced to the multitude, and was received with tremendous cheering. He alluded to the pro-slavery attitude of the opposing parties, and spoke as follows of some recent attempts at coalition. We quote from the Daily Advertiser:

Men are ready to sacrifice their principles, and to sacrifice their hates, to overthrow, if they can, the Republican party of Massachusetts for its fidelity to liberty. Gentlemen, let me say to you that the Republicans of this Commonwealth can trample in the dust any combinations that can be made against them and they will do it. (Cheers.) We have seen the great bellwethers of the party of the Hunts, the Brookses and the Duers in New York striking hands with the Douglas democracy. We have seen these leaders in New Jersey flying for protection into the camp of the Breckinridge democracy.

Here in Massachusetts, the little leaders are trying all they can, are ready to go before they are sent and come before they are called, to make a combination. I see, gentlemen, on my return home from New Hampshire, that Mr. George Lunt (laughter) is out with a call upon me to verify a declaration made by me last night. Well now I do not choose to have any controversy with Mr. Lunt in that matter. He is the conductor of the Boston Courier, and no man could have read that journal for the last thirty days without seeing that it was in reality begging somebody to make a bargain with them. The republicans know, and the supporters of Bell and Everett know that this Mr. Lunt has, day by day, during the last thirty days talked about a defeat of the republicans in Maine, and what a few Bellevettes down there could do to elect Smart for political effect in the country. Call upon me to prove it? I should as soon expect to be called upon to prove that there was such a person in existence as this George Lunt.

It is just as well known to numbers of men in Massachusetts and to some men out of Massachusetts that his voice has been daily raised for a union here in Massachusetts to defeat the Republican party, with a hope of defeating my friend Mr. Burlingame, and a little hope of defeating Mr. Rice, and especially to win a sort of victory in Maine to verify the foolish declaration of Mr. Smart, made in this State, that Maine would give 20,000 majority for Mr. Douglas. Well, it has given nearly 29,000 majority against Mr. Smart; and I predict today that Lincoln and Hamlin will carry Maine by more than 20,000 majority in November (great cheering). I pass that matter by. I have no controversy with Mr. Lunt. But, gentlemen, I will detain you no longer; I close with expressing to you the hope, aye, the profound conviction I entertain, that Abraham Lincoln is to be the next President of the United States. (Great applause.)

The Hon. Anson Burlingame was the second speaker. He was greeted with deafening cheers. In the course of his remarks he read the following telegraphic despatch:

PORTLAND, 11th Sept., 1860.

Alpheus Hardy, Esq.: The Republicans of Portland, in behalf of the victorious hosts of freemen in the Pine Tree State, send greeting to the Republicans of the old Bay State. The children of Israel have slain the Ephraimites, and there is great joy in the land. We now stand with our armor on, ready to bury the giant on the sixth of November. We are now having a grand procession and torchlight of Wide Awakes.

Mr. Burlingame spoke long and eloquently, and his remarks were rapturously applauded by the audience. He was succeeded by the Hon. J. P. Hale, who never misses fire, and on this occasion delivered one of his best speeches.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hale's address, the meeting dissolved with loud cheers for the various republican candidates.

The assemblage in the Lower Music Hall was called to order by George S. Hale, Esq., and the Hon. Chas. Hale was chosen President. Addresses were made by the Hon. Henry Wilson, J. C. Wyman, Esq., and H. P. Shed, Esq. The meeting was of a very spirited character.

The Indiana Revueille.

CONDUCTED BY F. J. WALDO.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1860.

¶ No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. (Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected articles.

¶ All Legal Advertisements payable in advance, or when Affidavit is made; in no case subject to the delay of legal process.

¶ All transient advertisements to be paid for invariably in advance.

A GREAT SPEECH!

It will be seen by a notice in another column, that Hon. RICHARD W. THOMPSON, of Terre Haute, will speak twice in this county on Friday next.

We regard Col. Thompson as the best political speaker in the State, and with but few superiors anywhere, and whether everybody agrees with him or not, all should turn out and hear him, as it is not often the people of this county are favored with an address from one so able, ~~agifed~~ ^{equipped} with power of oratory that is seldom equalled by any speaker. Let everybody turn out and hear, whether they believe or not. He supports Bell and Everett.

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT.

United Opinion. Springfield V.
It Made Little Impression on the Great
Emancipator. 1-17-97

Concerning Lincoln's life in Springfield, Ills., before the war an old resident of that city says:

"He used to come to my father's store, stick his feet on the counter and talk about the affairs of the nation. I was present one night when Abe came in, looking as melancholy as a man whose hens won't lay.

"What's the matter, Lincoln?" my father asked.

"Oh, nothing much! I'm discouraged a bit. I fear my tilt with Douglas was not very successful."

"Nonsense, Abel!" remarked my father. "Your words have electrified the country. They will bear rich fruit for you. Your reputation has been merely local heretofore; now it is national."

"Do you think so? Well, I hope you're right." Then the future president stalked out into the night, looking more cheerful than when he entered.

"I will never forget the first few days after he was nominated. At that time Springfield had no postal delivery, and we were in the habit of going to the postoffice late in the afternoon for our mail. Sometimes 200 people would gather in and near the postoffice. The evening after he was chosen presidential candidate by his party Abe came to the postoffice as usual for his letters. He was dressed in the homely fashion of the time and place and greeted his neighbors in his usual democratic way. He found his box full of mail.

"Those were lively times in Springfield. The town was overrun with prominent men from all parts of the country. It was my privilege to attend the reception given to his fellow townsmen by Lincoln after his election. I will never forget the picture he presented as he towered above his wife and greeted his old friends. There was not in his manner the slightest indication of what is now called 'the big head.' Mrs. Lincoln was very gracious and made a fine impression that night. I heard Abe say to my father in the hallway as we were about to leave:

"I guess Mary will carry herself right well in Washington, old man."

"Speaking of Mrs. Lincoln, reminds me of an episode that took place some years before Abe became a national hero. There was a well to do tailor in Springfield who owned a handsome house just across the street from the Lincolns. Mrs. Lincoln did not feel pleased that a tailor should live in a finer residence than that occupied by a leading lawyer. When Abe was off on circuit, therefore, she had a story added to their house. The job was nearly finished when Abe returned. He strode down the street, gazed at his house in surprise, and then crossed to the tailor's side of the road.

"Who lives in that palatial mansion over there?" he asked of his neighbor.

"The widow Lincoln," answered the smiling tailor. Then was heard a voice from the top story of the Lincoln house:

"Abe! Abe! Come to dinner! You're late!"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1915.

LINCOLN ON THE GERMANS.

In this day of wholesale charges of disloyalty against hyphenated citizens, it is worth while to recall what Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, now on his death bed in Council Bluffs, said of Lincoln's attitude toward the Germans. In his "Personal Recollections of Lincoln," Dodge wrote:

"President Lincoln took a great interest in Missouri. The fact that Blair, Lyons, Siegel and the Germans had held the state of Missouri in the union against all the efforts of its rebel government, made it very interesting to him, and he had been endeavoring for a long time to get it back under its own civil government."

The importance of the contribution of the Missouri Germans to the cause of the union can only be realized when one reflects that the rebellion was put down by breaking the back of the confederacy, that this was achieved in Tennessee and Mississippi, that there were many periods in the history of the civil war when a federal defeat in the west might have ended the struggle, and that the loyalty of Missouri safeguarded the armies of Grant, Thomas and other western commanders.

From Woodrow Wilson down, the denunciators of hyphenated citizenship are doing an injustice to the Germans of America. As a class, they are blamed by innuendo for a disloyalty which their fathers' record in the war of the rebellion is sufficient to disprove. The munitions plots and what expressions of disloyalty there have been have come from paid agents of a foreign country and from so minute a percentage of naturalized citizenship that to mention American citizens in that connection is to spread the ignominy over a class which deserves better treatment.

POLL IN LINCOLN 1860 CAMPAIGN AT LEWISVILLE REVEALS MANY OLD FAMILIAR NAMES

Recently, while looking through W. B. Gray, I. T. Hedrick, Dayton old papers and manuscripts we Fernstimaker, Westly Trumbell, Dr. came across the poll of a voting I. S. Moore, I. N. Moore, Samuel precinct of Franklin Township taken during the Lincoln campaign of Hopper, S. C. Gray, Jos. McNeely, D. N. Armstrong, John Bissinger, 1860. In this great campaign when John Adams, John Emery, J. W. Lincoln was called "Old Abe," "Honest Abe," "The Rail Splitter" the county gave him 2726 votes. Douglas 1296, Breckenridge 90, and Bell 16.

The party who took this poll in a voting precinct of Franklin Township did not consider Bell a possibility for his name was left off the poll sheet.

We print the names of those early Franklin Township residents listing them under the candidates as they were listed in that memorable campaign.

There are many names that will interest the people of Lewisville and Franklin Township as well as others in the county. They will recall many fine residents no matter under which candidate the name appears.

LINCOLN

Samuel Brown, Jethro Wickersham, Jos. Morris, G. W. Freeman, W. D. Wiles, W. M. Gaylor, Dr. S. H. Kersey, B. F. Callahan, D. H. Wiles, Lewis Freeman, Lafe Saunders, Levi Brown, F. C. Gulpin, D. Birely, Jesse Gwin S. B. Wilson, C. B. Watson, A. L. McMeans, E. B. McMeans, Jos. Kelso, Cyrus Spencer

John Adams, John Emery, J. W. Hayes, Harry Lewis, N. H. Wiles, Wm. Wallace, B. F. Shelley, Jarrett Ceitrain, S. A. Harrold, Thomas Waller, Sylvanus Davis, George Cclegate, Samuel Westerfield, Jas. Philistin, Caleb Wickersham, John Owens, N. T. Pike, David Byer, David Miller, John Mullen.

DOUGLAS

Johra Mallory, McArthur Mitchell Thomas Hutton, I. C. Howe, George Nugen, Elihu Powell, Sam Wallach, Ben Hood, Oliver Davis Thomas Wallace, G. S. Davis, I. R. Morris, W. Shoemaker, C. Kitner, P. Kitner, David Wyson, P. Southwick, John Addis, Jack Brenizer, Thos. B. Stevens, Geo. Warrick, John Quigley, A. Joruneyman Cooper, George Drake.

BRECKENRIDGE

Luke Parker, Robert Smith, A (Journeyman), A. B. Guerins, T. A. Johnson, Robt. Bartlett, Harvey Davis, Eli Davis, Jesse Whiteman, G. W. Jones, Benj. Bowers, A. J. Smith, John Bunker.

DOUBTFUL

W. N. Newton, Clinton Davis, Fred Whitsell, J. W. Fellows.

Ill. State Register 1936

TORCH PARADE ONCE FEATURE OF CAMPAIGNS

Notable Demonstrations Stat- ed; Election Day Battle Recalled

Political demonstrations aren't what they used to be.

Whatever the reason—whether the refining influence of women in politics, a more diversified interest, or whatnot—the people nowadays take their politics much more calmly than they did half a century or a century ago.

In the olden days the torchlight parade was the big attraction of the political demonstration, especially in presidential campaigns.

A political rally then drew a large attendance from far and near, despite difficult means of transportation and despite the then sparse population. The parade line was colorful with its torchlights, decorated floats, and banners. Farmers rode their most attractive horses, and the marchers gave vent to their enthusiasm.

The torchlight parade was revived in Springfield and Sangamon county in the presidential election campaign of 1932, but the old fire was lacking. The excitement of decades ago was not in evidence.

Notable Rallies Held

Springfield has been the scene of many notable rallies, particularly after the nomination of Lincoln for the presidency.

But the city's ability to stage political demonstrations was shown even as far back as 1840. In the "log cabin and hard cider" campaign of that year, the Whig party staged a rally in Springfield. One historian estimated the attendance at 20,000, which amounted to about 5 per cent of the state's total population.

Chicago sent a delegation. A group of Chicagoans rigged up a two-masted ship afloat, transporting it to Springfield in a wagon. The trip to Springfield required a week. A log cabin float also figured in the parade.

Political activity reached its peak here after Lincoln had been nominated for president. He won the nomination on May 18, 1860, at the republican convention held in Chicago. Following his official notification here, "Wide Awake" organizations for his support were formed throughout the northern states. The most enthusiastic of all their demonstrations was said to be the one staged in Springfield on Aug. 8, 1860. Supporters of Lincoln came to the

city mostly across the prairies in wagons or on horseback. Estimates of the attendance ranged up to 75,000.

Lincoln Sat On Balcony

With some intimate friends, Lincoln sat on the balcony at his house and watched the procession go by. It required hours for the parade line, said to be eight miles long, to pass his door.

Time has seen also the virtual passing of election day disturbances in Springfield and, since the adoption of the election commission, the passing of election frauds.

Only minor disturbances have occurred here in years.

The campaign of 1876, old timers recall, furnished one of the most exciting election days in the city's history.

Man Killed in Fight

Early in the afternoon a man was killed in a battle in front of a polling place on Jefferson street between Second and Third streets.

Rival factions then mobilized their

forces in the east and west parts of the city. Police were rushed to the scene of the fight. Reports from the east part of the city were that a mob would soon move to the west.

The mob moved west on Jefferson street. Police officers, using their clubs, battled the mob but were unable to halt its advance. The battle continued as far as Third street and a block away an opposing mob had formed. Men armed themselves with bricks and other weapons and took positions on the roofs of buildings.

Train Separates Groups

With a pitched battle between the two mobs in prospect, a Chicago and Alton railroad train steamed into the station. While the train halted the advance and kept the two groups separated, officers succeeded in breaking up the gathering.

It is a different story today. The voter goes peacefully to the voting booth, marks his ballot and deposits it with confidence of an honest count. There is no more stealing or stuffing of ballot boxes.

PAGE TWO

STATE JOURNAL WAS LISTED AS LINCOLN ORGAN

Frank J. Heint Secured
Data On Early Papers
In This Region.

Frank J. Heint of Jacksonville prepared some years ago an interesting historical review of the newspapers and periodicals circulating in the Lincoln-Douglas country in 1831 and 1832. The data for this was secured from a charge account book of the postmaster at Jacksonville. The period was the first year of the Sangamon Journal's existence, and the record indicates that it had only eight subscribers in Jacksonville. It is listed by Mr. Heint as the "personal organ of Abraham Lincoln."

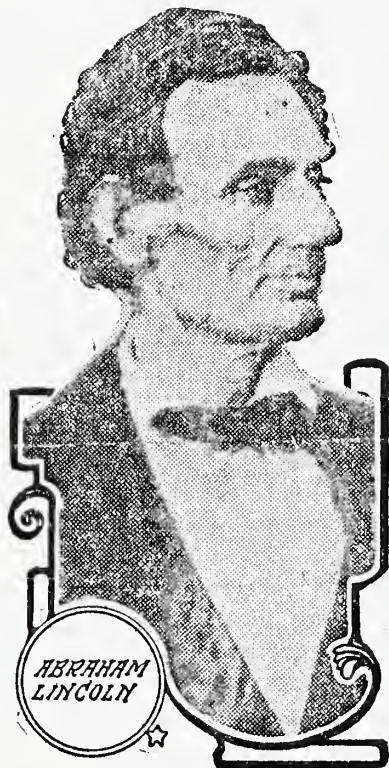
At that period Jacksonville was a town of vastly more importance than Springfield. It was the largest town in Illinois, and was already regarded as a coming center of education and a candidate for the state capital. It is interesting to note that religious publications led in the number of readers. The newspapers of Louisville, Ky., aggregated thirty-five subscriptions. Springfield was second. Of the nine Illinois papers then circulating in Jacksonville, The Journal is the sole survivor.

6/30/36

THE TIME LINCOLN WANTED CHEERING UP.

BY E. J. EDWARDS.

This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently dramatic light on famous events and personalities of the past have been collected by Mr. Edwards during nearly forty years of more or less intimate acquaintance with many of the country's leaders since the civil war. Each anecdote or incident is fresh from Mr. Edwards' notebook, and, either in whole or in part, it constitutes **NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY**, garnered from the men who made the news—the history—or from equally authoritative sources. As important contributions of the "human interest" sort to American history, these articles have a distinctive value all their own.



Copyright, 1900, by E. J. Edwards.

WHAT do you do when you want cheering up? How Lincoln, at the dark period of the civil war, sent to Connecticut for a typical down East Yankee to cheer him up was told to me a few months before his death by Isaac H. Bromley, to whom Lincoln appealed in his extremity for help in getting the cheering up he so badly needed. All his life long Mr. Bromley was a newspaper man, but when he told me the anecdote he assured me that he believed it had never been printed, and until now I have never told the story in print.

"In 1860," said Mr. Bromley to me, "I was the proprietor of a Republican newspaper at Norwich, Conn. I was one of the citizens of that town who invited Mr. Lincoln to visit Norwich on the eve of a state political campaign, that visit to follow his now historic appearance at Cooper Union in New York City. As Mr. Lincoln was on his way to Harvard to visit his son Robert, then a student there, we thought that without inconvenience to himself he could make one or two political addresses in Connecticut.

"Well, Mr. Lincoln graciously accepted our invitation, and in due time he delivered a speech that became traditional. A brilliant audience heard him. Every person in it was actually spellbound by the man's individuality, his power of delivery

hold Lincoln in another light—a light so utterly at variance with our first one of him that we could scarcely believe that here was the same man who had moved us so mightily earlier in the evening by the sheer power of his intellect.

"Before Mr. Lincoln reached Norwich one who knew him slightly told several of us that the great Illinoisan dearly loved a good teller of tales, and was rejoiced to meet an original character who had a fund of anecdotes always on tap.

"Now, there lived in the neighboring town of Stonington an able lawyer, who was also distinguished as a brilliant story teller, Judge Trumbull, a descendant of that governor of Connecticut who is known in history as Brother Jonathan. This Judge Trumbull was invited by us to meet Mr. Lincoln at his hotel, and a little after 10 o'clock that historic night I escorted Mr. Lincoln to his room and there introduced him and Judge Trumbull.

"The instant the two men met," Mr. Bromley continued, "each recognized in the other a congenial spirit, and with the formalities of the introduction barely over, Lincoln said:

"Judge Trumbull, they tell me that you know more good stories than any other man in your state, and from all I've heard about Connecticut I reckon there are a good many good story tellers in the state. Let's swap stories."

"We brought up a rocking chair for Lincoln. He drew off his boots and put on a pair of slippers. Judge Trumbull curled up on a sofa. The rest of us waited silently, eagerly, to hear the stories.

"Lincoln began with an anecdote of the prairies. When he had finished, Judge Trumbull came back with a down East yarn. And so they went on and on, matching stories. Time passed, midnight struck, and still they were at it.

"At last it occurred to me that Mr. Lincoln ought to get some sleep, so I said:

"Judge Trumbull, Mr. Lincoln is to take the 6 o'clock train for Providence, and he ought to have some sleep."

"Lincoln protested that he was getting better rest than sleep would give him, the duel of story telling went on, and, as a result, it was not until 3 o'clock that Judge Trumbull and the rest of us bid Lincoln good night, all except two or three of us never to see him again.

"Two years later, when the exciting events of the war had all but effaced the memory of the meeting of Lincoln and Trumbull from my mind, I was astonished to receive written word from Mr. Lincoln that he would be very glad if I could induce Judge Trumbull to come to Washington and spend the night with him.

"That was all. So, without knowing why the president wanted to see Judge Trumbull, I extended the invitation to him, and he in turn, not knowing what the president wanted of him, accepted and went on to Washington.

"But no sooner had the judge landed at the White House and been ushered into Lincoln's presence than he was informed by Lincoln that the latter only wanted him to come on and swap stories with him once more; things were not going exactly right with the war and he (Lincoln) felt the need of a little story-telling relaxation. So it came about that, telling stories to each other, these two men passed the greater part of the night, with no one else in all Washington knowing about it. And when it came time for the

HOW WAYNE COUNTY GAVE LINCOLN A BOOST

FAIRFIELD, Ill., July 15.—(Special)—Wayne County is patting itself on the back. If it hadn't been for Wayne County, Abraham Lincoln might not have received the nomination for President.

Wayne County, it has been discovered, was the first officially to endorse the backwoods lawyer's candidacy and instruct its delegates to vote as a unit toward his nomination. Thus the swing to Lincoln was started.

So within a few months, Wayne County plans to dedicate a memorial on the Courthouse Square to President Lincoln and those pioneer politicians who engineered his endorsement in the county.

Judge J. V. Heidinger, president of the Lincoln Club, which is sponsoring the event, predicts it will bring out the largest crowd ever seen in Fairfield.

Up until a few days ago, Wayne County residents didn't realize its history was concerned in the least with the rise of Lincoln to the presidency.

But Wayne County had a Lincoln Club just the same. In fact, the Lincoln Club had been functioning for a number of years.

So the history of Wayne County's Lincoln Club must necessarily come first.

The club had no lofty, altruistic principle of preserving the memory of the Civil War President when it was organized.

It was formed primarily to hold one banquet (the cost per plate was steep) which was to pull the Wayne County, Republican Party out of the red.

But after that one banquet, which wiped out a modest deficit for the Republicans, those who attended figured it might be pleasant to make the dinner an annual affair.

The political purposes of the original Lincoln Club gradually were forgotten, more members—both Democratic and Republican—were taken into the club, and the annual dinner of the organization eventually became an occasion for eulogizing the Civil War President.

The Lincoln Club has existed now for 16 years, and in that time, its members have become

genuinely interested in Lincoln lore.

One can imagine then the surprise with which members of this group read a letter that arrived a few weeks ago from Michael G. Heintz of Cincinnati.

Mr. Heintz, an attorney and a complete stranger to anyone in Fairfield, congratulated the Lincoln Club and wound up his letter by wondering if Wayne County was aware of the fact it had given Abe Lincoln's presidential candidacy its first endorsement.

"We," said Judge Heidinger, the other day, "were amazed."

"We immediately appointed a committee to investigate."

"There wasn't any use looking in our county records. For these had been destroyed in 1856."

"It seems what had been called the 'fireproof' part of the old Courthouse, where all records were stored, burned to the ground that year."

"First, our committee went to Springfield and it had planned to make a trip to Chicago if necessary."

"But the record of that Republican meeting back in 1860, at which Lincoln's candidacy was o.k.'ed, finally was found in the files of The Prairie Pioneer, a weekly newspaper once published here."

"Resolutions adopted by the convention were contained in the March 15, 1869 issues of the paper."

Wayne County in 1860 leaned strongly in its sympathies toward the South. But those Republicans who met in a room of the courthouse March 5 apparently held little brief for the southern cause.

The resolutions they drafted started out like this:

"Whereas, it has long been the custom of the American people in political times to meet—in conventions, and express their approbation or disapprobation of the political movements that are ushered upon the country from time to time. Therefore:

"Resolved: that the Republicans of Wayne County have unabated confidence in the ballot

box as the only true remedy for all political wrongs."

There followed several paragraphs of self praise because "no Republican had ever spoken in approval of disunion."

There followed the paragraph on Lincoln:

"Resolved: that Hon. Abe Lincoln is the unanimous choice of the Republicans of Wayne County for the presidential nomination of the national convention at Chicago."

"Resolved: that the delegates of this county, be instructed to vote as a unit in the state convention—and that a majority of the delegates shall control the vote of this county."

The final clause had to do with publication of the convention's proceedings.

It was requested that the resolutions be sent to The Prairie Pioneer, Chicago Press and Tribune, Centralia Egyptian Republic and Springfield State Journal.

The signatures of C. Sibley, chairman, and William H. Robinson, secretary, followed.

The Republican chairman in 1860, C. Sibley, was a building contractor. He was the father of the late Dr. Wilbur and Dr. Will Sibley, twins who practiced medicine in Fairfield for many years.

He was the grandfather of Dr. Frank Sibley, Carmi surgeon.

W. H. Robinson in 1860 was a young attorney. He later became a member of the law firm of Robinson, Boggs and Johns.

Judge Heidinger himself afterward formed a partnership with Judge Carol Boggs in the first few years after his admittance to the bar.

"Judge Boggs always maintained," said the president of the Lincoln Club, "that Lincoln tried a lawsuit here in Wayne County at the old courthouse."

"But no records ever have been found to substantiate this. It is traditional, too, that Lincoln, when he was in Fairfield, stopped over at Judge Boggs' home."

"But not until a few weeks ago

did we have any definite proof of Wayne County's connection with Lincoln."

While the Republican Party endorsed Lincoln, when it came to voting for him in the national election the county went in the opposite direction.

But that was mainly because there weren't enough Republicans in Wayne County in those days to overcrowd a ballot booth.



Judge J. V. Heidinger (above) of Fairfield, Ill., heads Wayne County's Lincoln Club.

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